

Practice guide

Family Help & Children's Social Care Family Help - All Child, Wigan

Purpose, Background & Rationale

After 9 years working to develop quality and impact with communities in West London, AllChild launched a translation of its approach in a new partnership model with stakeholders and communities in Wigan in September 2024. AllChild identifies children and young people as issues first emerge and mobilises communities to deliver a connected ecosystem of support and opportunity to enable them to build the social, emotional, and academic skills they need to flourish. We mobilise wider positive impact across families, schools, communities and Early Help systems.

What we did to improve children's outcomes and experiences

Since launching in 2016, AllChild has worked with around 6,000 children and young people, in over 60 primary and secondary schools, with around 200 charity partners (including 50 as formal delivery partners). We have raised £18m of private income to fund interventions for children, which we have then used to leverage a further £13m from public commissioners (schools, local authorities, and central government) to align stretched and fragmented services, and to build on them, via a single trusted relationship for every child. For every £1 of local public sector funding, AllChild can leverage a further £3 of new investment to local communities.

The five key features of our approach are:

- **Community co-design** - our place-based approach involves deep partnership with local stakeholders to co-design programmes of support that are rooted in local context and need. This approach drives programme relevance, operational partnership, and long-term community empowerment and resilience.
- **Targeted, early action** - we use a unique, evidence-driven approach to proactively identify children who don't yet require crisis intervention but have a range of risk factors that could lead to negative outcomes and the need for more serious intervention later. This means we can offer help before parents have to take the difficult step of requesting it.
- **A trusted adult** - we have a team of dedicated Link Workers who work in schools to build a direct, trusted relationship with child, family, and school, while designing and delivering a two-year 'Impact Programme' for each child, tailored to provide the right social, emotional, and academic opportunities.
- **Joined-up community support** - our Impact Programmes are a carefully sequenced collection of activities and services, facilitated by our Link Workers. We connect children and their families to the right school and community services in the right way at the right time, and 'micro-commission' specialist partners wherever gaps or barriers exist.
- **Collective impact funding** - our mixed public/private funding model connects all parts of a local community with an interest in the health and success of children. Contributions from

schools, local authorities, central government, local businesses, and philanthropy enable our whole system of support and drive collaboration across all parties for better short-term impact and greater long-term community connectedness. Our public commissioners pay us on outcomes achieved, not activities delivered, which empowers us to flex our support for every child and family as needed.

What has the impact been? How was this collated?

We have learned we can break down barriers, reduce complexity and streamline support for families – so that they can have a more coherent human experience, and their children can access the support and opportunities they need to flourish. The children and young people identified by AllChild are mostly not known to Children's Services (data suggests about a third have been previously 'known' in some way), yet each child has an average of four risks across social, emotional and academic areas. This means they are struggling with their mental health, their relationships with their peers, their behaviour, and are falling behind at school.

After working with AllChild:

- 80% improve their social/emotional health (two-thirds move out 'out of risk' completely).
- Nearly 60% improve academically (half are 'back on track' to achieve age-related-expectations by the end of school).
- Nearly 70% of persistent absentees – children who miss at least one school day in every ten – improve their attendance, with 43% no longer persistently absent (i.e. attendance moves above 90%).
- Less than 5% of our cohort escalate post programme to the Early Help, Child in Need or other children's social care status.
- Only 1% access an Education Health Care Plan even though 40% of our young people have an identified SEND need.

Resources

<https://www.allchild.org/>

Find out more

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